

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Council**

**THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 1879**

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Thursday, 16 January, 1879.*

Member Sworn.—Address in Reply.—Sitting Days.—  
Standing Orders Committee.—Joint Committees.—  
Official Establishment of the Council.—Savings Bank  
Securities.—The late Princess Alice.—Chairman of  
Committees.

## MEMBER SWORN.

The Hon. W. Hobbs was sworn and  
subscribed the roll as a member of the  
House.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT reported that he and  
other honourable gentlemen proceeded to  
Government House and presented to the  
Governor the Address which had been  
agreed to by the Council, at their last sit-  
ting, and that His Excellency had been  
pleased to make the following answer  
thereto:—

To the Honourable the President, and the  
Honourable the Members of the Legisla-  
tive Council.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLE-  
MEN,—

I thank you for your Address and the assur-  
ance it contains of your continued loyalty and  
affection towards the Person and Government  
of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and your desire  
to aid in the passage of such laws as will  
tend to the advancement and prosperity of all  
classes of the community.

A. E. KENNEDY.

Government House,  
Brisbane, 16th January, 1879.

## SITTING DAYS.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That unless otherwise ordered, this House  
will meet for the despatch of business at four  
o'clock p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday  
in each week.

It would be observed, he said, that he had  
made the time an hour later than the  
House had been in the habit of meeting.  
He had done that for the purpose of eliciting  
an expression of opinion from honour-  
able gentlemen as to whether it would be  
advisable to make the alteration. Great  
difficulty was often experienced in collect-  
ing a sufficient number of members to form  
a quorum by half-past three o'clock in the  
afternoon. He knew that the meeting of  
the Council at that time often interfered  
with the business engagements of gentle-  
men in town, including himself among the  
number. From his own personal experience  
it would be far more convenient if the hour  
of meeting was half-past four, instead of  
half-past three o'clock, in the afternoon.  
He might state that the alteration he pro-  
posed would be in accordance with the  
practice in the other colonies. He believed

that the nominal hour of three o'clock, for half-past three, was originally fixed in order to suit the convenience of gentlemen who were resident out of town and who had to come from their homes by horse conveyance. From the facilities now existing, by which honourable members could reach the Parliament House from the interior, and which did not exist in the early days, he thought that, consulting the convenience of the majority of the Council, they would not act unwisely in altering the nominal hour of meeting to four o'clock; so that they could commence business at half-past four, instead of half-past three o'clock. Of course, if the House differed from him he should be prepared to fall in with the wishes of honourable members, and go back to the original hour of sitting.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY observed that personally the change would not affect him, as the sitting of the House, now, was too late to enable him to leave for the country afterwards; therefore he should be willing to fall in with the wishes of honourable members. There might be some advantage in sitting a little later than they did, and in not closing the House before dinner; while the alteration of the hour of meeting would afford gentlemen occupied in town the opportunity of attending the House without seriously interfering with their private affairs.

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR hardly agreed with the change, which might in many ways prove inconvenient to bush members. For instance, his honourable friend, Mr. White, could not attend.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: He very seldom did attend; and only when sent for.

The Hon. T. L. MURRAY-PRIOR: There was a reluctance to meet after dinner, and, if the hour of meeting was altered to half-past four o'clock instead of half-past three, the business of the sitting would not, in many instances, be got through by six o'clock, and the majority of honourable gentlemen, once they parted, would not be inclined, if they lived out of town, to return from their domiciles, and there would be no quorum at seven o'clock. However, he should do as the majority wished; but he thought it would be better for the House and for the honourable gentleman who had the conducting of the Government business, to meet in accordance with their former practice.

Question put and passed.

#### STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Session consist of the following members:—The Honourable the President, the Honourable A. H. Brown, the Honourable F. H. Hart, the Honourable G. Edmondstone, and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjourn-

ment of the House, and with authority to confer on subjects of mutual concernment with any committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Assembly.

He said the names were the same as last session. The Committee did not meet very often.

Question put and passed.

#### JOINT COMMITTEES.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved (as amended, by consent)—

That the following committees be appointed:—

1. Library Committee.—That the Honourable the President, the Honourable E. I. C. Browne, and the Mover, be appointed members of the Joint Library Committee.

2. Refreshment Rooms Committee.—That the Honourable the President, the Honourable J. C. Heussler, and the Honourable K. I. O'Doherty, be appointed members of the Joint Committee for the management of the Refreshment Rooms.

3. Parliamentary Buildings Committee.—That the Honourable the President, the Honourable F. T. Gregory, and the Honourable J. S. Turner, be appointed members of the Joint Committee for the management and superintendence of the Parliamentary Buildings.

4. That the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly by Message, requesting that they will be pleased to nominate a like number of members from their body, with a view to give effect to the 8th Joint Standing Order.

The honourable members named in the motion were the same as formed the committees last session. He said he did not think the House could do better than reappoint them.

Question put and passed.

A message was sent to the Legislative Assembly forwarding the resolutions.

#### OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved, pursuant to amended notice—

That the following be an Order of the Council for this Session, viz.:—The Standing Orders Committee shall, within one month after being appointed, bring up a Report specifying the various sums required for the support of the Council's Official Establishment, and to provide for its contingent expenses; and such report shall, when adopted, be forwarded to the Colonial Treasurer, authenticated by the signature of the Clerk of the Parliaments.

He said he did not think it necessary for him to go over the ground which had been gone over on former occasions with reference to resolutions of this description. Difficulties had arisen between the Council and the other branch of the Legislature in regard to the necessary expenses for carrying on the work of legislation in the Upper

Chamber; and it had been considered that it was unfair to throw upon the President the responsibility of furnishing the Estimates for the official establishment of the Council without consultation with the House. They originally intended to meet the difficulty by making a standing order in accordance with the resolution; but it had been held that such a procedure was not constitutional. As the present was a practical mode of meeting the case, it seemed to him that the House would act wisely if they adopted the sessional orders he proposed. It had been suggested to him by the President that the time, "one week," as originally named in his notice of motion, was too short; and he concurred with him. The House hardly got into working order in a week; time was monopolised by certain matters to be done at the beginning of the session; and it would be advisable to extend the time to one month. Of course, if necessity existed, the report could be brought up at an earlier date than thirty days; as the Standing Orders Committee could deal with the matter promptly.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Question put and passed.

#### SAVINGS BANK SECURITIES.

The PRESIDENT produced the report of the Auditor-General of his inspection, on the 3rd instant, of the debentures and other securities held in trust for the Savings Bank, accompanied by a statement showing how the funds of the Bank were invested on the 31st December last.

On the motion of the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, the documents were ordered to be printed.

#### THE LATE PRINCESS ALICE.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL moved—

That a Select Committee, consisting of the following members, viz.:—The Honourable the President, the Honourable Thomas Lodge Murray-Prior, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address of Condolence to Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen on the sad bereavement and loss which Her Majesty has suffered in the death of Her late Royal Highness Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt.

Resolutions of this description have happily, during past years, been very few in number. Her Majesty has suffered no bereavement in her household since the lamented death of the Prince Consort. On that occasion this House expressed to Her Majesty its great grief at the loss which she and the whole British Empire sustained. On this occasion her loss is, perhaps, not so severe; but, at the same time, it must be very painful to Her Majesty. Under the circumstances, it will be but becoming in us to express our sym-

pathy in her bereavement. I may state that as soon as the information reached this colony of the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, the Government, acting on behalf of themselves and the people of the colony, through the Governor, sent a telegraphic message to Her Majesty expressing our sympathy with her. This is the first opportunity that has been afforded us as a legislative body, of expressing our regret, and I think we should avail ourselves of it in the manner proposed in the motion.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

The Hon. A. H. BROWN: I merely rise to express my pleasure that such a motion as this has been brought forward by the Postmaster-General, and my satisfaction that the committee nominated are well able to carry out the proposal to frame a suitable address. Each year, I think, draws more closely and strongly the bonds of loyalty which unite us to the mother country; and an expression of the kind proposed from the Council will be appreciated, not only by Her Majesty the Queen, but by all the members of the Royal Family. I must express my congratulations to the Postmaster-General that he has suggested the Address; I am sure that it will be unanimously adopted.

Question put and passed.

The committee retired, and, after a short absence from the Chamber, returned.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL brought up the report of the committee, with the Address, which was read, as follows:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, having heard with great sorrow of the death of Your Majesty's Daughter, Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt, desire humbly to approach Your Majesty with an expression of our earnest and heartfelt sympathy in Your Majesty's bereavement, and of our trust that Almighty God, who in His infinite wisdom has thought fit to try You with this great affliction, will comfort and succour You in Your distress.

The honourable gentleman then moved—

That the Address be now adopted.

Question put and passed.

#### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The Hon. F. T. GREGORY rose to move, without notice—trusting, he said, that it would be treated as an unopposed motion—the election of the Hon. D. F. Roberts as Chairman of Committees of the Whole.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL: It would be better that notice should be given of a

motion of such importance, in the usual way. The honourable member's object would be gained by giving notice of it for the next sitting day, when it would be the first business for consideration.

The PRESIDENT: The motion could not be put, if objected to.

Notice of motion was given.

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